

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday, April 14. 1709.

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**I** Am now to examine, by what Steps *France* arriv'd to her present Greatness; and this in order to direct us, by what Steps to reduce that Power, how dangerous the Return of that strange Creature call'd *Exorbitant Power* is to *Europe*, in whatsoever Shape to be seen, or in whatsoever Hand to be found; and so if possible, to lay down Rules for our Concern in that Matter in the present Emergence.

No Nation in *Europe* was so mad, as by open and visible Concert to assist *France* in her known Project of enslaving the rest of *Europe*; but this poor insatuated Part of the World; and if in this I speak Truths, that some People do not love to hear, and others think ought not to be told, I must be ex-

cus'd, since if I have any Judgment of the Necessary or Seasonableness of this Reflection, I think both are very clear.

The first blessed Step to make *France* great was under the Management of Cardinal *Richieu*, in the Reign of *Lewis XIII.* when that Politick Minister was about the difficult Task of ruining the Power of the Protestants in *France*, he had carry'd on all his Projects against them with Success, and reduc'd them to a general Sanctuary in the strong City of *Rochel*, and there he resolv'd to besiege them. The Place was too strong to be attack'd in Form, and the Garrison too numerous and desperate for him to carry on a Siege; to blockade them also seem'd to no Purpose, while the *Rebellers* were Masters of

of the Sea, and had their Port open—— By which they receiv'd Relief as often as they had Occasion—— And this seems a very proper Note in this Place, and worth Observation; that at that Time, which is not yet full fourscore Years ago, all the Naval Power of *France* could not mate the few despicable poor *Rochellers*; but Monsieur *Soubize*, their Champion I may call him both at Sea and Land, burnt and destroy'd the few Men of War the King of *France* got together to curb them, even as often as they durst show themselves—— And with his little Fleet rode Master of the Seas in Spight of all the Power of *France*.

To make an End of them at once, the Cardinal built the *Armada* of *Spain*, another mock Force, 20 Galleons were to be the Number, however about 12 came, besides Satees, and such Kind of Things to the Number of 22 Sail, these joyn with the King of *France's* Navy-Royal, and now they were to devour *Rochel* at once. But the *Rochellers* fought them bravely, and in less than two Years ruin'd both the *French* and *Spanish* Ships, burnt the Admiral, sunk and stranded others, and in short continued Masters.

To our indelible Scandal will it be told, how these brave Protestants, this little Remnant that defended their Liberty with their Blood, were at last ruin'd and oppress'd by an united Assistance of *English* and *Dutch* Men of War—— And that we Protestants pull'd down the Protestants of *France*, who had else to this Day with Arms in their Hands not only maintain'd that flourishing Church, but had been a constant Check to the growing Projects of *France*, and a steady-immovable Obstacle to the Exorbitant Greatness of *France*.

I make no Reflections on this Conduct as to the Persons, whether it was Archbishop *Laud*, whether B——, or whether the *French* Petricots, that even then too much govern'd—— But the Guilt and the Shame lie in their Graves with them, that is none of my present Business—— The Blot lies on the *English* Councils of those Times, and we as well as all *Europe* smart for the Folly of it to this Hour.

We come from this Point to the Year 1661; the blessed Restoration of the Royal Line promis'd *England* happy Days, a general Cessation of Blood and Rapine, the sad but natural Consequences of Civil War, and all People seem'd to be pleas'd with the Change—— Nor had the Nations Hopes been defeated, had the King come over with a Head or a Heart, embark'd in either his own Interest, or that of his Country.

But the King tainted with that *Plague* of *Monarchs*, for Monarchy has its peculiar Distempers, I mean the Lust of Arbitrary Rule—— Immediately sets up a separate Happiness from that of his People. It would be a long and melancholly Story to relate here the Steps, by which he attempted the Liberties, and some say, the Religion of this Country; and such was the Humour of the Times, that this Prince had a strange Influence over the People by being unmeasurably beloved by them, so that had he been a true Politician, he really might have enslaved them—— But here Providence permitted one Vice to destroy another; the Prince given up entirely to his Base, and drowned in all the Pleasures of a Life devoted to Sloth, and Luxury—— His long-lascivious Reign was spent wholly in Drunkenness, Lewdness, and all Manner of Debaucheries.

To maintain the profuse Expence that always attends a Life of so much Pleasure, he neither could be satisfy'd with the daily Extortions of Subsidies and Taxes given by Parliament, nor with several Encroachments on his People, but basely subjected himself to be a Pensioner to *France*, receiving vast Sums from the *French* Court—— In lieu whereof it is a sad Story to tell, how he took his Measures by their Direction, being manag'd by *French* Councils, wheedled by *French* Whores, brib'd by *French* Money, and in a Word given up to *French* Interests.

The present King of *France* was now Major, or of Age, and had disengag'd himself from the Incumbrances of State-Regencies, and the Guardianship of his Courtiers; he appear'd vigorous, young, alive, and



and politick, and began to swell with unusual Ambition—— He amass'd Treasure, laid up vast Stores of Warlike Provisions to such an incredible Degree, that I care not to enter into the Particulars—— He rais'd and maintain'd formidable Troops, and under an able Ministry, particularly that of the Marquis de Louvois, Colbert, and others; he began to encourage Arts, Learning, Science, and particularly to increase his Naval Strength, as well as his Armies—— To support this, and the future Invasions he had in View, he employs subtle Statesmen to all the Courts of Europe, where by their Arts and Money he lulld almost all Europe asleep, and prevail'd upon them to sit still, at least while he makes himself thus formidable.

He may have been said to have spent 20 Years in this Part of Management, putting him in a Posture to become terrible to his Neighbours, and during which Time his Kingdom flourish'd in Peace and Trade, and his Wealth grew to a prodigious Magnitude—— England he had under a complete Management; Spain he wheedled at the Treaty of the Pyrenees by a fatal Alliance, making them his nearer Confederates, and dozing them with a Dream of the Renunciation; which how well he propos'd to maintain, has since appear'd, when pretending the Right of Devolution, which could not be affected by the said Renunciations; the Heir not being born; under this Pretence he seiz'd Burgundy, Franche-Comte, Luxemburg, and in the War that follow'd upon this, master'd the Spanish Netherlands, over-running them with a Torrent of Armies, which the Spaniards scarce and unprovided, was in no Condition to resist——

To keep the Dutch employ'd he embarrasses them first with the English in 1666, and then falls in upon them in 1672, with 140000 Men in two Armies, and without any Reason assign'd, but meer Mal Satisfaction, drove the States to the Brink of Destruction.

All this while England play'd the shamefullest Game, that ever this Nation acted in the World; we were entirely given up to make France Great, we encourag'd their

Naval Preparations, sent him over Builders to instruct his People, sent him the very Moulds of our Men of War, without all Question the best in the World, to build by; we sold him Dunkirk, and supinely sat still, and see him make it the most terrible Fortress in the World—— We dishonourably and basely sell on the Dutch by Sea, attacking their Smirne Fleet without any Provocation to, or Declaration of War. Then we pick'd a Quarrel with them, for Want of a better Occasion; upon the Pretence of Right of the Flag; and sent a small Yacht in among their whole Fleet to fire at and insult their Admiral, to make him and their whole Fleet strike to him; upon this we declare War, fight them, loose a great Deal of Money and Blood, and are soundly bang'd by the Dutch into the Bargain—— All this while we lend our best Regiments to the King of France to help make him great, and the Scots Battallions of Douglas, now Orkney, sav'd the whole French Army on the Rhine, when the Marechal de Turenne was kill'd with a Cannon-Ball.

But this was not all; we pretend at last to turn about, and recalling our Troops from France, send over a Body of Men to aid the Prince of Orange, when he had almost done the Work without us—— But all this while the King manag'd the Treaty of Nimwegen wholly for the Interest of France, and mocking the Prince of Orange with the Image or Shadow of an Alliance, fell into all the French concerted Measures at that Treaty, and signing the Peace in the French Whores Lap, left the Prince in the Lurch, and gave France all his Conquests made upon Spain, coaxing Holland, with Charleroy, Aeth, Oudenard, and some such small Places, as a Barrier against future Invasions; which how little they signify'd, Time has discover'd.

By this small Sketch we may see, how France became great, and whose supine Blindness and Negligence put the Views of universal Monarchy into his Head—— I need not tell you, how during these things France extended his Conquests upon the Empire; how he dispossest'd the Duke of Lorraine and the Elector of Treves; how he seiz'd the three Bishopricks of Metz, Toul, and



and Verdun, the Duke of Lorraine being fain to turn Refugee to the Emperor; how after this he seiz'd all that noble Country between the Moselle and the Rhine, built infinite Fortifications upon the Saar and the Moselle, fortify'd Saar Louis, Mont-Royal, and Landau, Places esteem'd impregnable; how then he advanc'd to the Rhine, took the Imperial Cities of Strasburg and Mentz, the strong Towns of Phillipsburg, Fribourg, and Brisac, and built Fort Hunningben to curb the Swiss, being within Cannon-shot of the City of Basle, took the Brisga, the Honsruck, and the Passes of the Black Forrest; and as he strengthned all the Towns he took with invincible Fortifications, so he built Fort Louis and Part of Fort Kehl, and made himself such a Barrier on that side as to this Day, the Emperor has never been able to break through, and by which he has frequently made it easie to pierce even into the Heart of the Empire.

Thus we see, how France has made himself a Terror to Europe, by what Methods he has brought it to pass, and who Europe has to thank for it. But this is not all we owe to the Wickedness of King Charles's Reign, a blacker Account lies still behind, which may in its Time come to Light in these Papers.

In our next we shall examine the Necessity there was of pulling France down from this aspiring Greatness, and that will bring us the best Way to the Question in hand, the Terms of a Peace.

#### ADVERTISEMENT

Whereas it was asserted to my Advertisement in the Review of *gib lustum*, sign'd J. Cave, that one Mr. Joshua Stephens came to me from time to time with every Sheet of the Manuscript of the Translation of my Book, de *Toto Cantharidum*, &c. the better to be assur'd, that it was expressive of my Intervention in the Latin: I hereby declare it to be utterly false, for that I never saw the said Mr. Joshua Stephens on that Account, or any other

in my Life, neither do I know the said Mr. Joshua Stephens, for that no other Person or Persons ever at any Time came to me with that English Manuscript to be revis'd, but Mr. John Mareen, Surgeon, neither did I ever with any revise it, but with him only, who did in my Presence at divers times translate several Pages of it, and brought always the Translation in his Hand Writing, and to whom I have goud Reason, and do verily believe, the Translation is properly owing, as are the many curious Additions and Observations therein, as Witness my Hand this 11th of April, 1709.

John Greenfield, M. D.

To the Truth of this I can and will at any Time make Affidavits, if Occasion. J. Gr.

To Mr. John Marston, Surgeon.

SIR,

THE following are your Latinisms; viz. Fixing a mala flamina upon—upon the Immission of *rem in re*—*Ambustabas*—*Quot homines tot sententia*—into *statu sano*—He cur'd an *illustrissimo*—that durior he proclaims himself—in *terrorem*, in a Fright—they take *non causa*, *pro causa*—I wish, I could add my *ipse dixit*—tho' I am *Amicus Galenus*, *Amicus Hippocrates*; yet I am *magis amica Ratio*, *Veritas* & *Sapientia*, and according thereto will I act! The Word *Apophosis*, you say, signifies an Excrecence of Masculous Skin—These are in the fifth and sixth Editions of your Treatise, therefore can't be the Errors of the Press; as is fully demonstrated in *Quackery Unmask'd*, Chap. 3. In your Appendix we have, *discere qua puduit scribere iussit*, &c.—*sine Cerere* & *Baccho friget Venus*—in *tempore coitu*—You bell p, the Word *Cunum* signifies to conceive—the Word *Virago* a lecherous Man—the Moon you call an *Element*—*Hermaphrodites*, amphibious Creatures—Vindicate these Latinisms, &c, and Interest shall be made to F. Curle to enroll you for a Scholar! But till then, you'll not be believ'd (tho' Affidavits be made in the Matter) to be a Translator, unless of Old-Shoes.

Yours,

John Spinke.